REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed March 6, 2007.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,002,184 to Delson et al ("Delson"). Claims 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Delson in view of paragraph 5 of the instant specification.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, and 8. No new matter is added by these amendments and support may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Applicant traverses each of the Examiner's rejections. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested in view of the remarks below.

I. § 102 – Delson – Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-15

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection 1-3, 5-10, and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Delson.

To anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), a reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. See M.P.E.P. § 2131.

Because Delson does not teach or suggest "determining an adjusted sensor value based at least in part on the raw sensor value and a compliance between the sensor and the manipulandum" as recited in claim 1, Delson does not anticipate claim 1. Delson describes a control system for driving a mechanism with a periodic signal generator. The control system drives the mechanism by transmitting a period signal from the periodic signal generator to the mechanism. Delson further describes a feedback system that can be used to adjust the periodic signal if the mechanism is not responding as expected to the periodic signal. For example, the mechanism's response may differ from the expected response due to mechanical defects or tolerances built into the mechanism. The feedback system allows the periodic signal to be modified to account for these defects or tolerances. The periodic signal is modified based on a sensor value received from a sensor monitoring the mechanisms response to the periodic signal. However, the sensor signal in Delson is not modified. Rather, the sensor signal and the desired response are

used to compute an error correction, which is applied to the periodic signal before being transmitted to the mechanism.

In contrast, the raw sensor signal in the present invention is received from the sensor, adjusted based at least in part on a compliance in a manipulandum, and output. For example, paragraph 78 of the specification of the present application recites that a compliance compensation value is calculated and subtracted from the raw sensor value. The result is then stored as the sensor value to be reported to a processor monitoring the position of the manipulandum. Because the sensor signal in Delson is not adjusted, Delson does not disclose "determining an adjusted sensor value based at least in part on the raw sensor value and a compliance between the sensor and the manipulandum" as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Delson does not anticipate claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

Similar to claim 1, claim 8 recites "a processor operable to ... determine an adjusted sensor value based at least in part on the raw sensor value and a compliance between the sensor and the manipulandum." For the same reasons as for claim 1, Delson does not anticipate claim 8.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 8. Because claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, and 12-15 depend from and further limit one of claims 1 or 8, claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, and 12-15 are patentable over Delson for at least the same reasons. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, and 12-15.

II. § 103(a) – Delson in view of the Instant Specification

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Delson in view of the paragraph 5 of the Instant Specification.

To sustain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the combined references must teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.03

Because Delson in view of paragraph 5 of the instant specification does not teach or suggest "determining an adjusted sensor value based at least in part on the raw sensor

value and a compliance between the sensor and the manipulandum" as recited in claim 1, from which claim 4 depends, claim 4 is patentable over the combined references. As discussed above, Delson does not teach or suggest "determining an adjusted sensor value based at least in part on the raw sensor value and a compliance between the sensor and the manipulandum" as recited in claim 1. Paragraph 5 of the instant specification does cure this deficiency. Paragraph 5 of the instant specification teaches that compliance may exist in manipulanda. Thus, the combined references do not teach or suggest "determining an adjusted sensor value based at least in part on the raw sensor value and a compliance between the sensor and the manipulandum." Claim 4 is therefore patentable over the combined references.

Similar to claim 1, claim 8, from which claim 11 depends, recites "a processor operable to ... determine an adjusted sensor value based at least in part on the raw sensor value and a compliance between the sensor and the manipulandum." For the same reasons given for claim 4, claim 11 is patentable over the combined references.

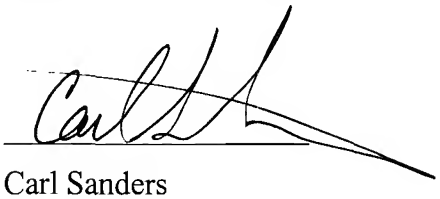
Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 4 and 11.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully asserts that in view of the amendments and remarks above, all pending claims are allowable and Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all claims.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, or suggestions of a nature necessary to expedite the prosecution of the application or to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is courteously requested to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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